MARVEL ®
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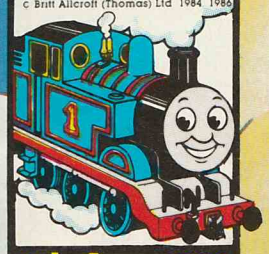

11th June 1988
No.17 35p

THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS

Based on The Railway Series by The Rev. W. Awdry.

SODOR SHIPPING Co

Oh dear! A difficult day for Percy!

THE THOMAS CLUB PAGE!

Peep! Peep! Do you like the picture of Percy on our cover? He does not look very happy, does he? You can find out what is wrong by reading the story which begins on the next page!

EVERY FORTNIGHT!

You can be sure of your copy of **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends** every fortnight by taking out a **year's subscription** and having it sent **straight to your home**. You will also automatically become a member of the **Thomas Club**! Turn to page 14 for details and a picture of your splendid **Club Pack**!

ANOTHER WAY!

Here's another way to join the **Thomas Club** if you do not wish to subscribe to **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends**: just collect **3** tokens like the one at the bottom of the page. Send one **yellow** one, one **red** one and one **green** one, together with a self-addressed envelope (23cm x 16cm) complete with an **18p** stamp, to: *The Thomas Club (Tokens), Marvel Comics, 23 Redan Place, London W2 4SA.*

YOUR PHOTOGRAPH!

In issue 20 of **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends** there will be a very special page indeed. We would like to print photographs of some of our **Club members**! So, if you have a clear, black and white or colour photograph of yourself, why not send it in? Attach your name, age, address and please tell us which part of our magazine you enjoy most. Send your photographs to: *Club Photographs, Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends, Marvel Comics, 23 Redan Place, London W2 4SA.*

Photographs should reach us by Tuesday, 31st May 1988.

Please enclose a stamped, addressed envelope if you would like your photograph returned.

The Fat Controller says...

Thank you, all you Club members, for sending me your very splendid drawings. I have pinned them all up in my office – all of them that is, except a few which you'll find on page **16**!

THOMAS TOKEN

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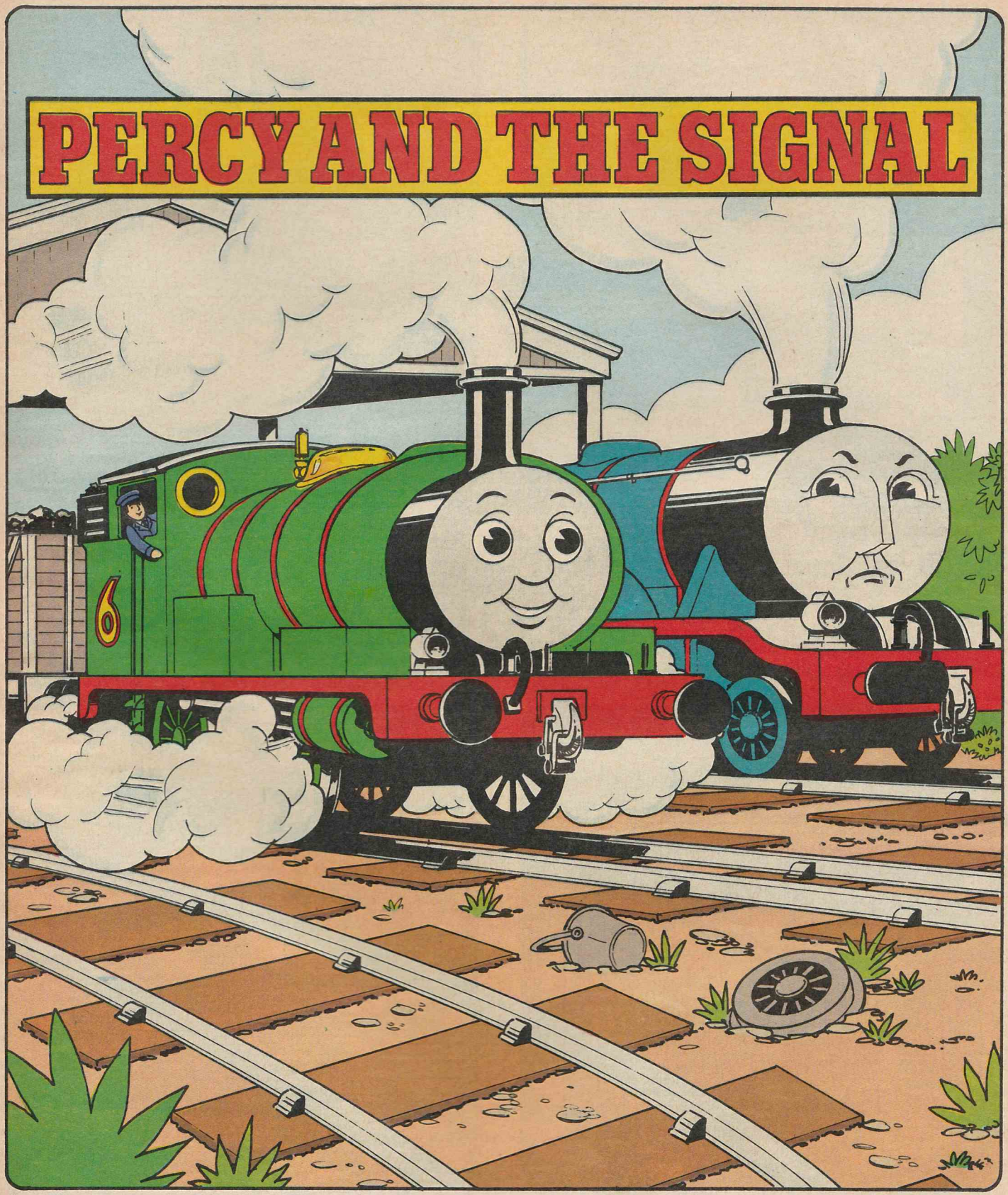
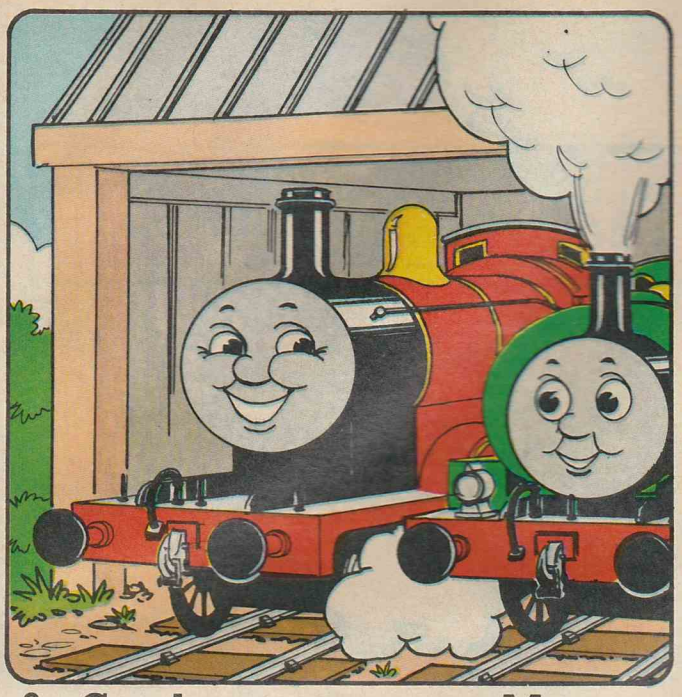
A listen and look story!

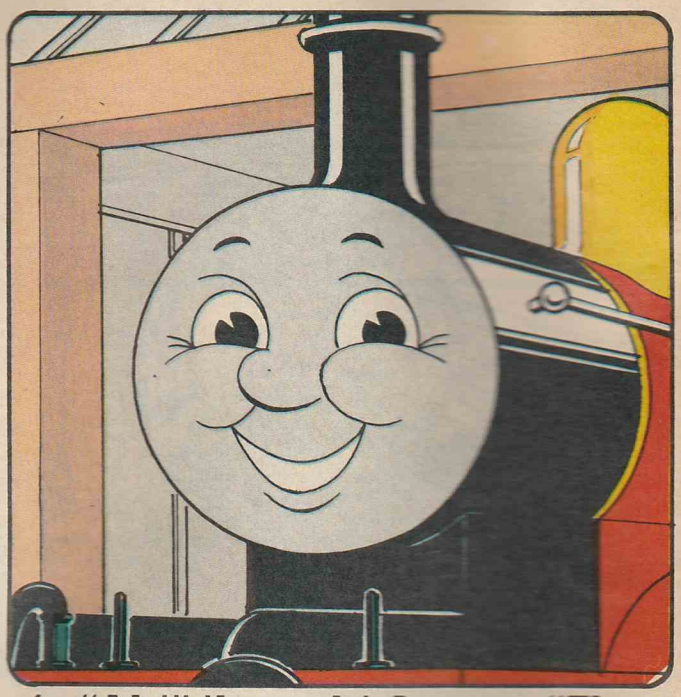


1. Percy works in the yard at the Big Station. He loves playing jokes, but they can get him into trouble. One morning he was very cheeky to Gordon indeed.

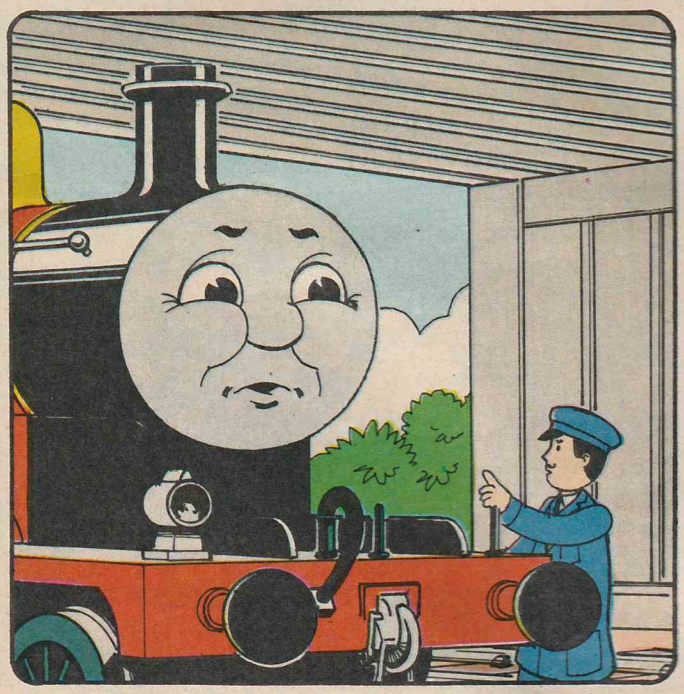
2. "Peep peep!" he called. "Hurry up, Gordon! The train is ready." Gordon thought he was late. "Ha, ha!" laughed Percy, and he showed Gordon a train of dirty coal trucks.



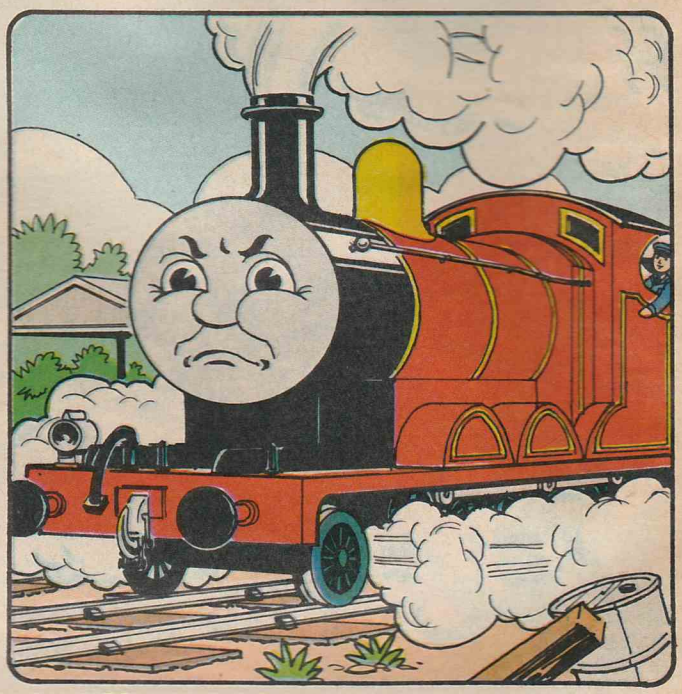
3. Gordon was cross. Meanwhile Percy was playing a trick on James. "Stay in the shed today, James," said Percy. "The Fat Controller will come and see you."



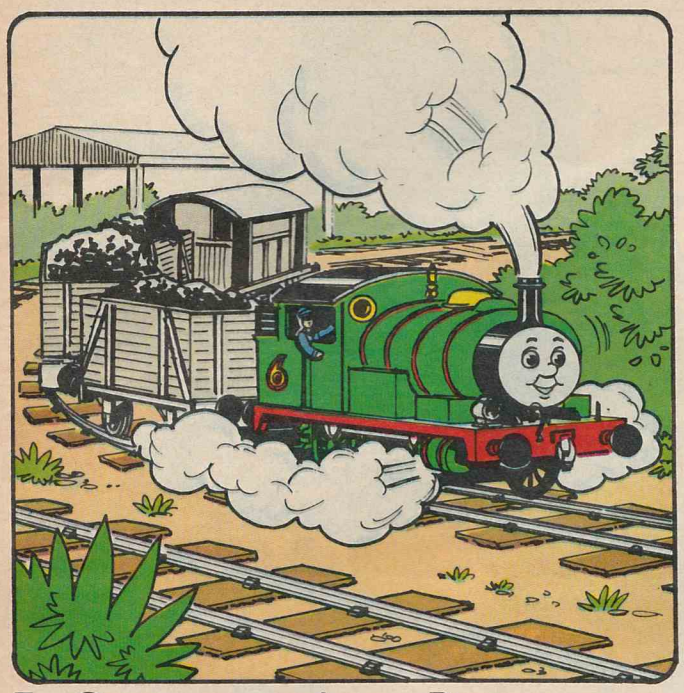
4. "Ah!" thought James. "The Fat Controller knows I'm a fine engine. He must want me to pull a Special Train." His Driver and Fireman could not make him move.



5. At last the Inspector arrived. "Show a wheel," he said. "You can't stay here all day, James!" "But the Fat Controller **told** me to stay here," James protested.

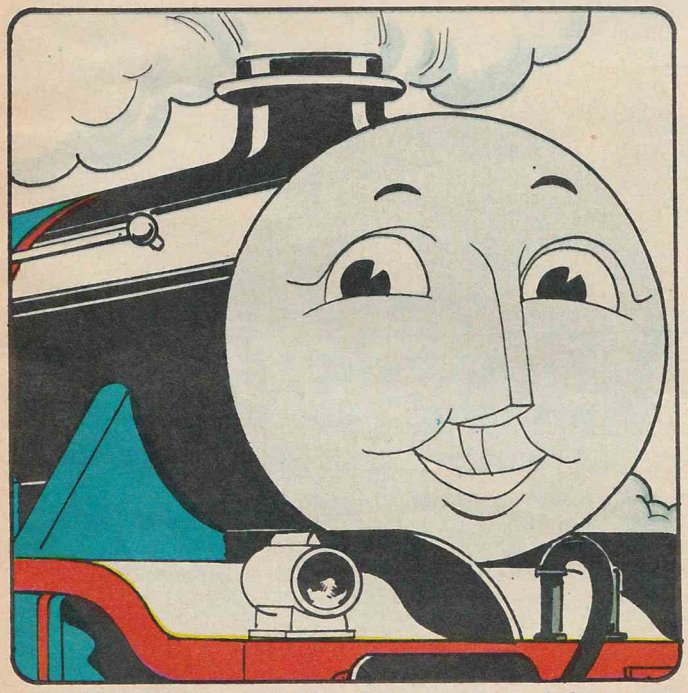


6. "He did not," said the Inspector. "How could he? He's away for the week." "Oh," said James. "Where's Percy?" But Percy had wisely disappeared.

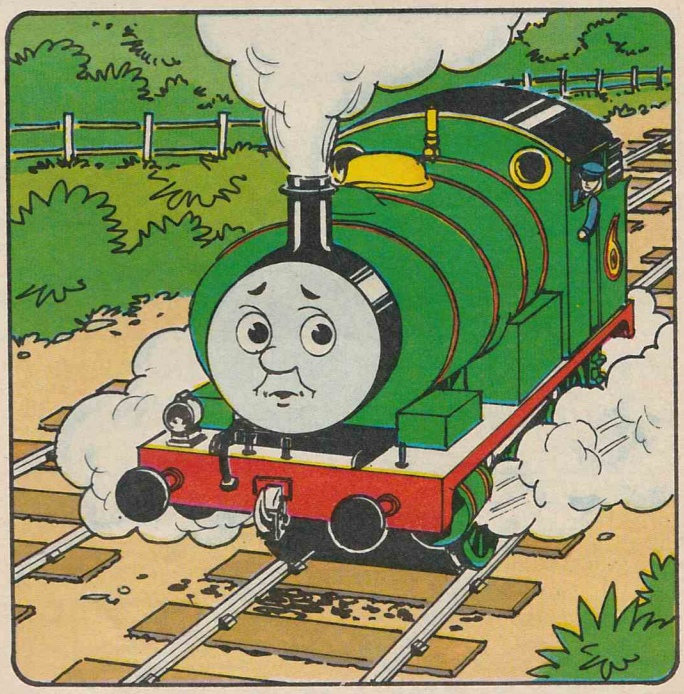


7. One morning Percy was careless. "I'm to take some trucks to Thomas's junction," he said. "The Fat Controller chose me especially, because I'm a Really Useful Engine."

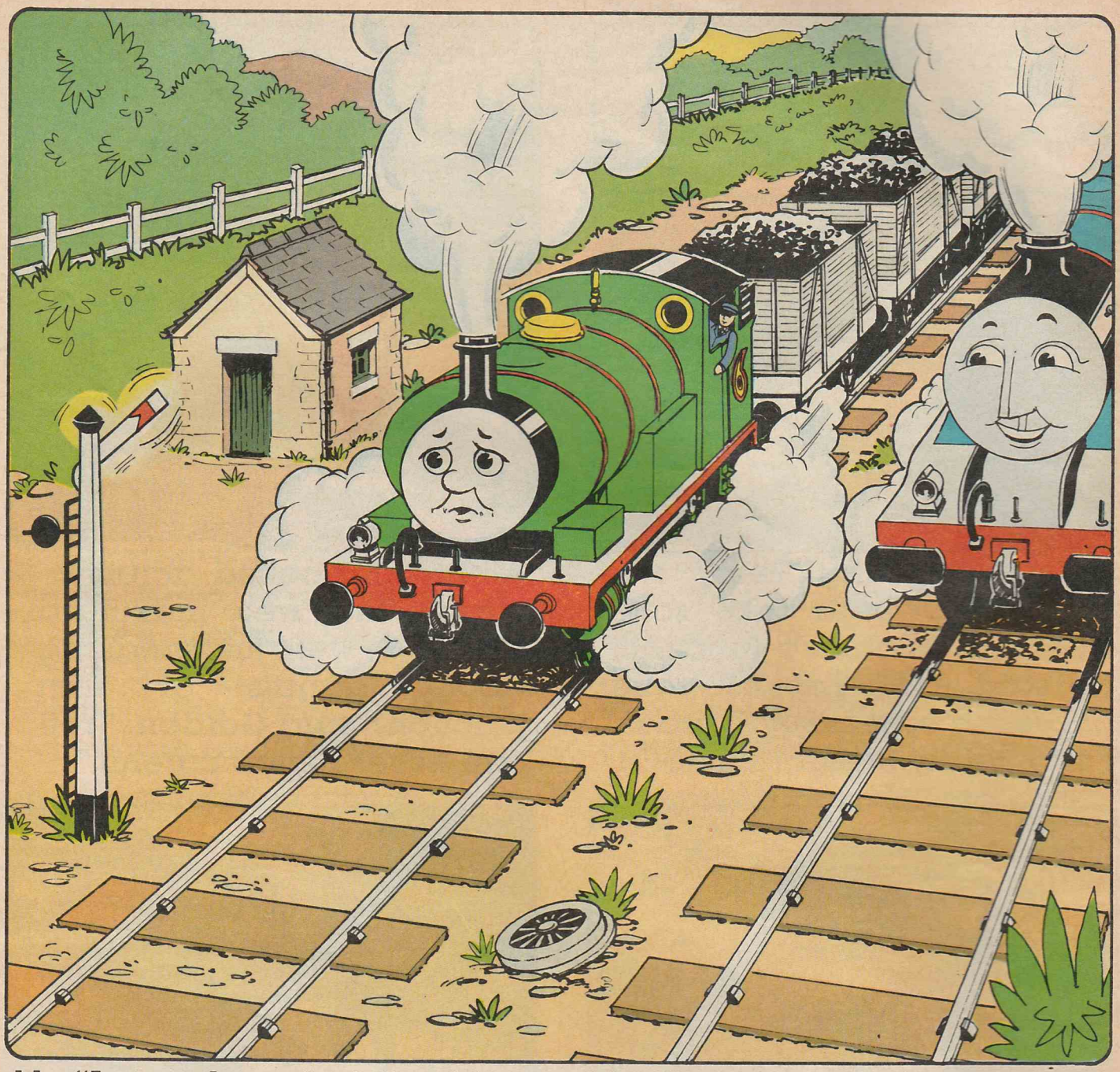
8. Gordon looked across to James. They were making a plan. "We were just speaking about signals at that junction," said Gordon. "You can never be too careful."



9. "But I needn't say that to a Really Useful Engine like you, Percy," said Gordon. Percy felt flattered. "We were talking about ***backing signals***," put in James.



10. "They do need extra special care," he added. "Would you like me to explain?" "No, thank you," said Percy. "I know all about signals." But Percy was a little worried.

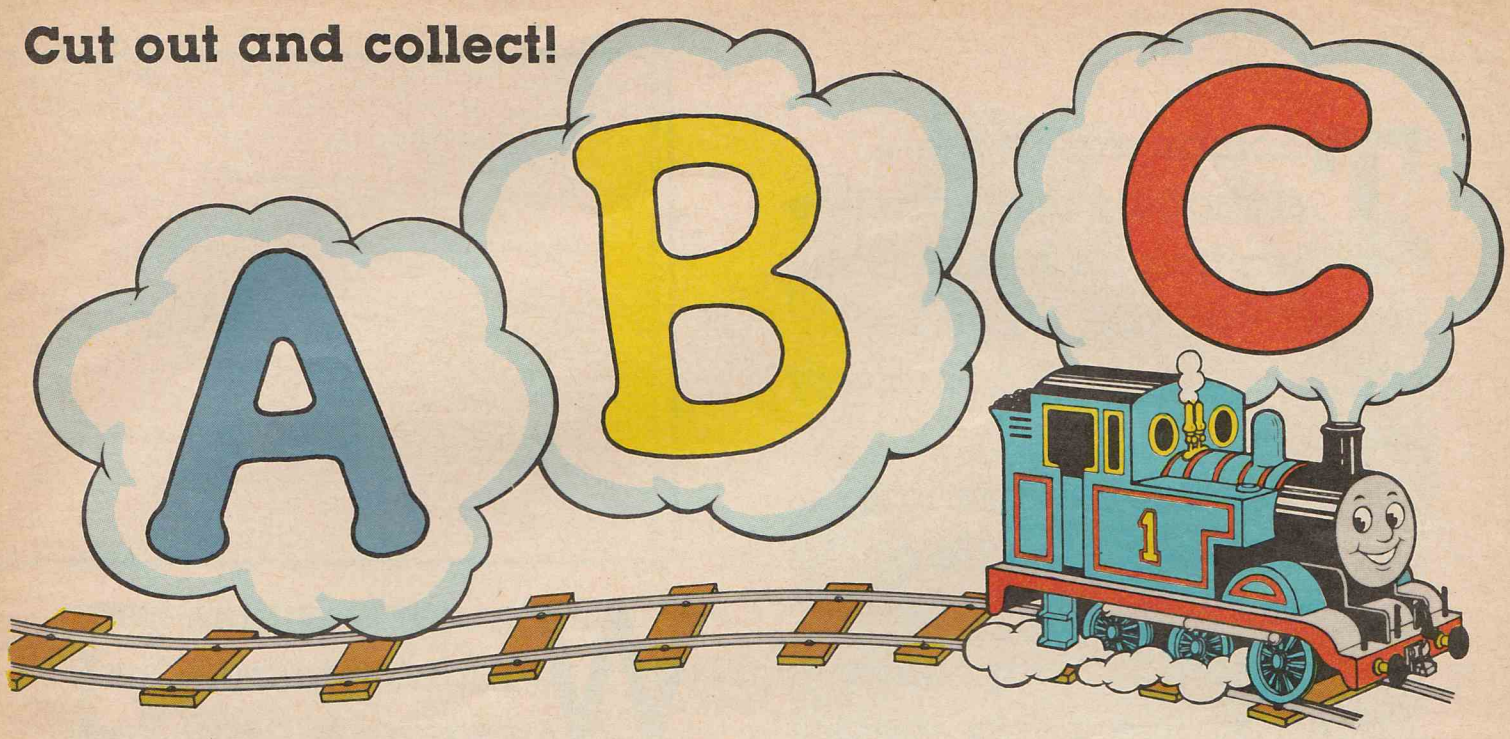


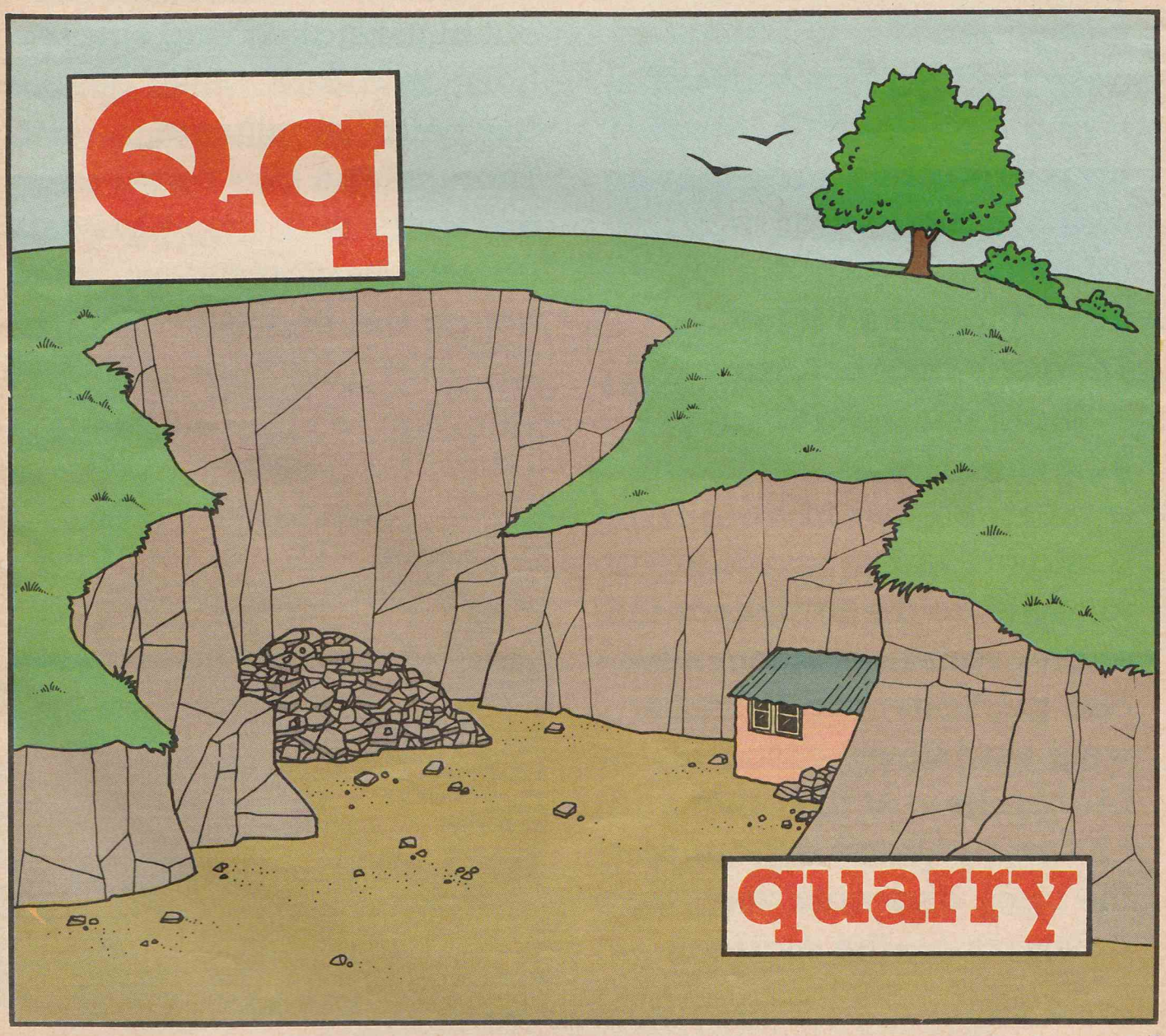
11. "I wonder what ***backing signals*** are?" he thought. "Never mind. I'll manage." He puffed crossly to his trucks, and felt better. Soon he came to a signal. "Bother," he said. "It's at ***danger***." The signal moved to show ***line clear***, but its arm moved up instead of down. Percy thought he had never seen that sort of signal before.

12. "Down means ***go*** and up means ***stop***, so upper still must mean ***go back***," Percy thought. "I know! It must be a ***backing signal***." So he backed up. "**Stop**!" called his Driver. "You're going the wrong way!" Then Percy heard Gordon laughing. He had seen it all and thought it was very funny. Somehow Percy didn't agree at all. **THE END**

In our next issue: Harold the Helicopter!

Cut out and collect!





A read-aloud story!

Thor and the

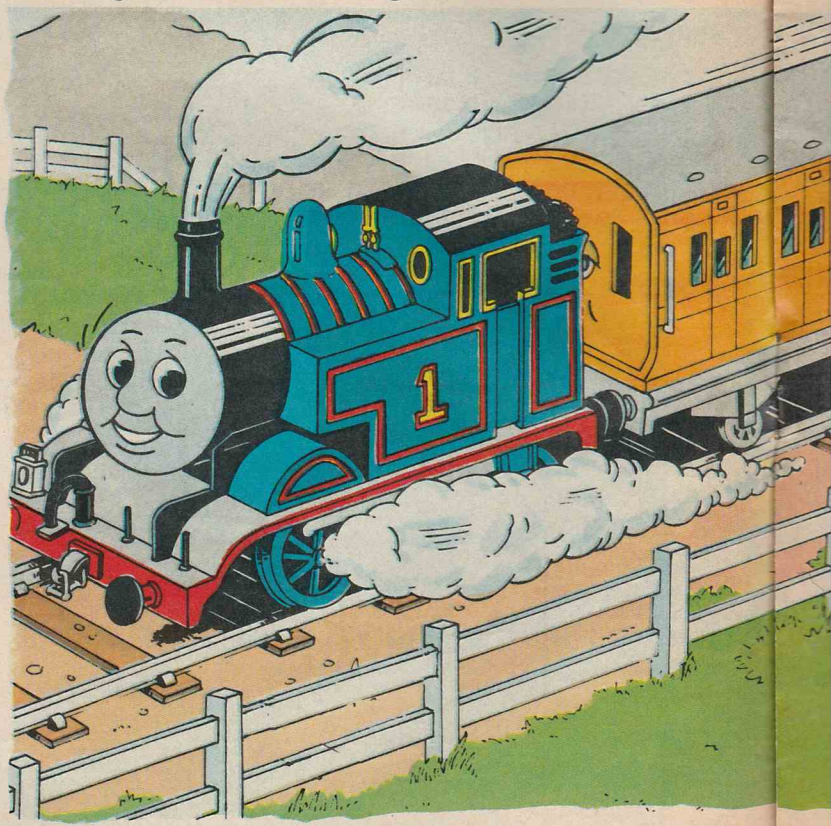
Thomas was at the station by the main line waiting for James' train. James was late. When he arrived he was not going very fast.

"No wonder you are late," said Thomas, "you are going very slowly."

"I had to go slowly," said James. "I have a very special passenger and you are going to take him on your train." At the end of James' train was a big truck with a roof on. The guards uncoupled it from James' train and joined it to Thomas's coach, Clarabel.

"That's our special passenger," said James. "It's a horse. He was in an accident and you have got to take him to the farm near the end of your line, where he can get better." So Thomas went very slowly along his branch line. At the other end he saw the horse get out of the truck and walk very slowly along the platform.

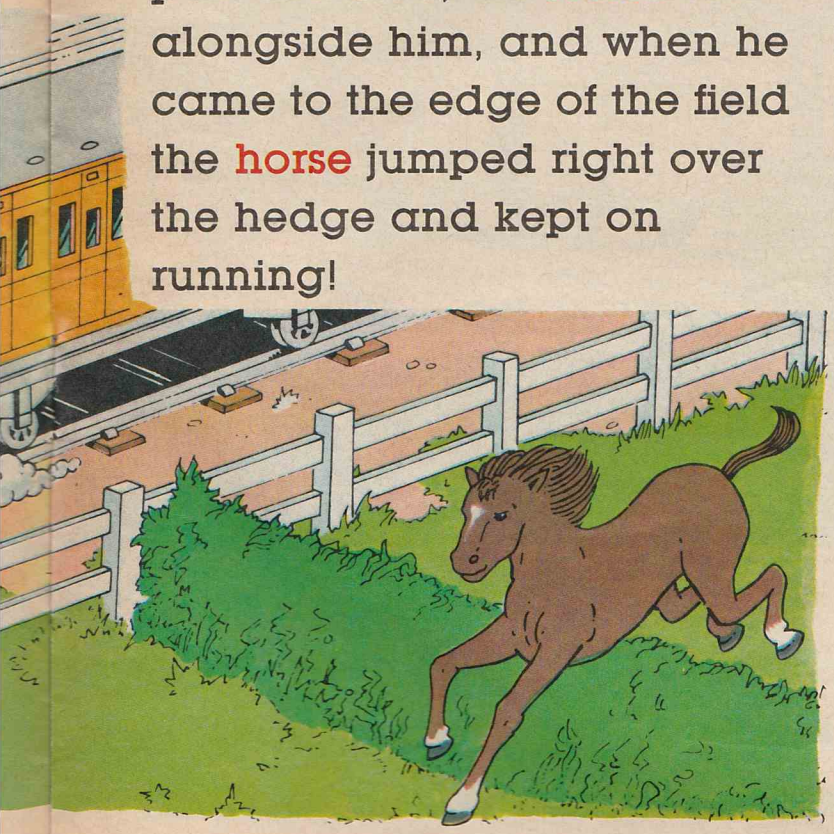
When it was time for Thomas to take his next train he puffed out of the station and saw the horse in a field. "Peep peep! Get better soon!" said Thomas. The horse walked across the field trying to keep up with Thomas but he could not go fast enough.

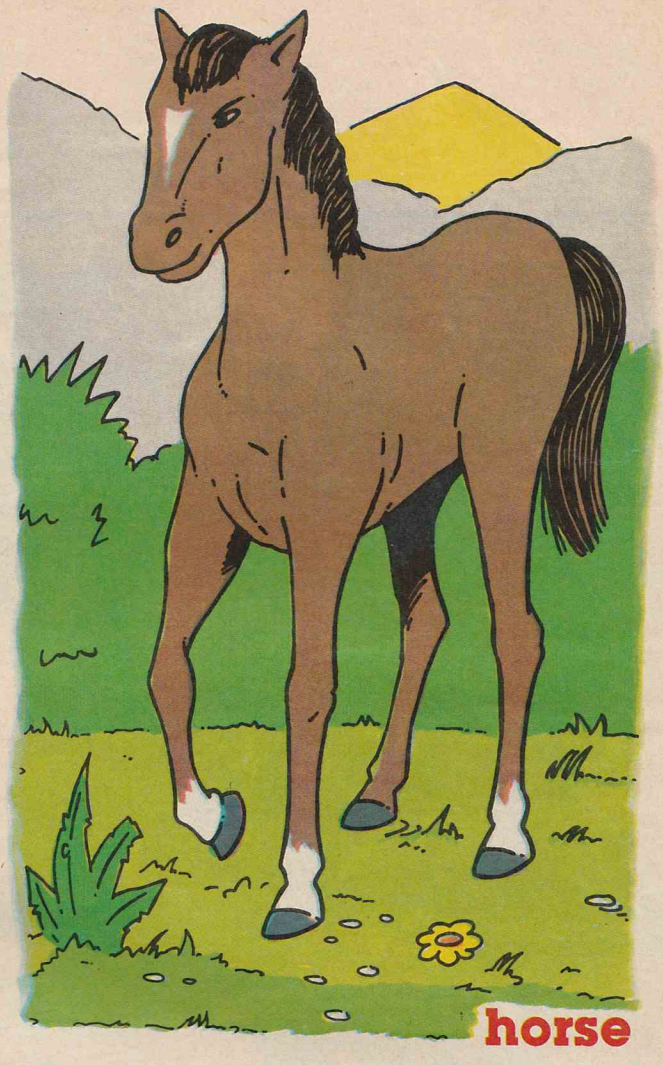


mas
e Horse

Every time Thomas pulled a train past the field, the horse tried to keep up with him. As time passed, the horse could go faster and faster. He looked much better and could nearly go as fast as Thomas.

One day as Thomas went past the field, the horse ran alongside him, and when he came to the edge of the field the horse jumped right over the hedge and kept on running!



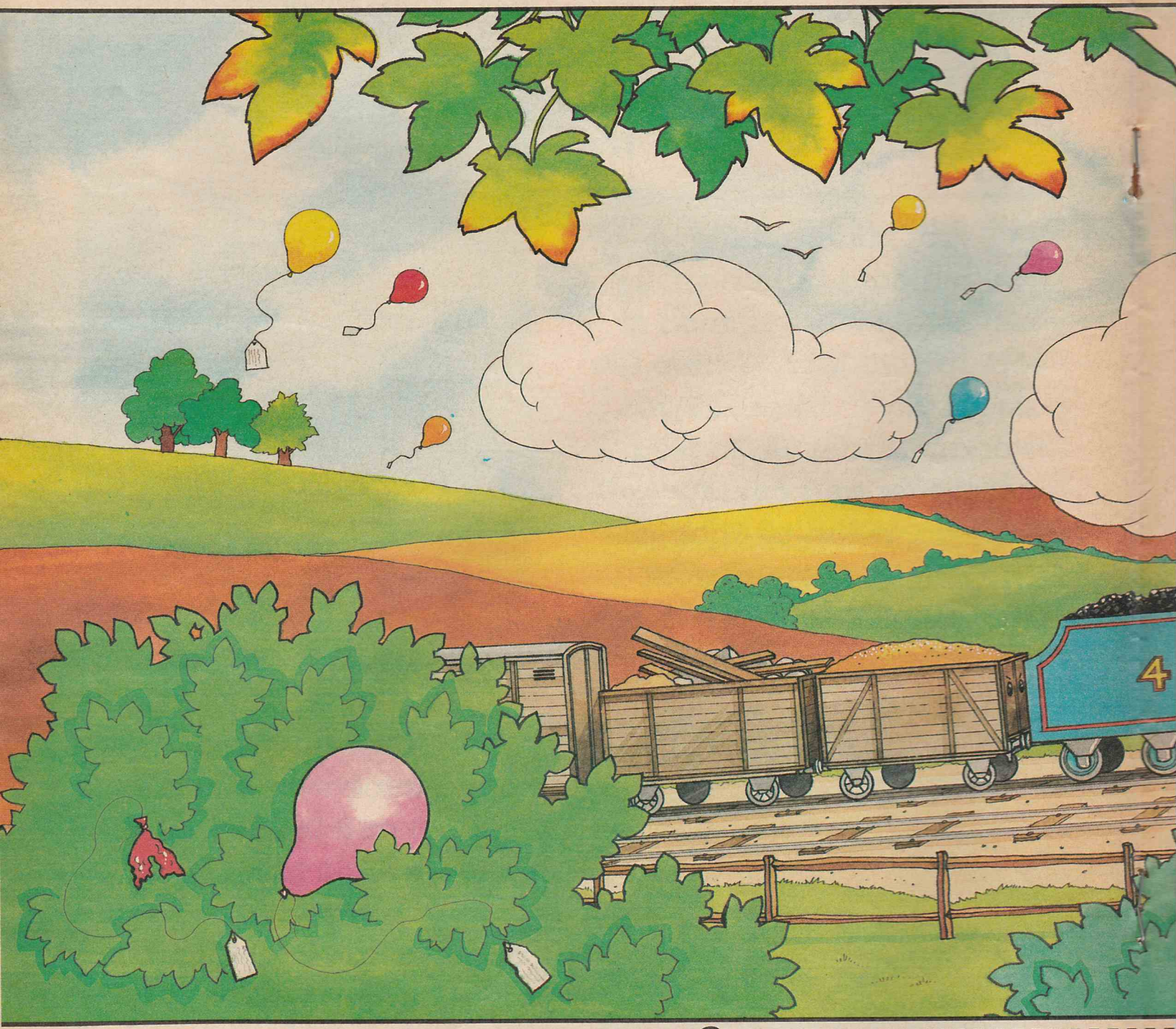


horse

"I think our friend is better," said Thomas' driver. The next day the big truck was joined to Clarabel and the horse ran in. He was in a hurry to get home so Thomas went quite fast down his branch line. As James got ready to take his train and the horse away, Thomas said, "Peep peep! Goodbye!" The horse gave a big neigh as James chuffed away.

THE END

Up the hill!



Who is puffing up the hill?

Is he pulling coaches or trucks?

Has he plenty of coal in his tender?

How many balloons are flying?

Can you see a burs

What are the trucks

What animals can

Are they jumping a

!

burst one?

ucks carrying?

can you see?

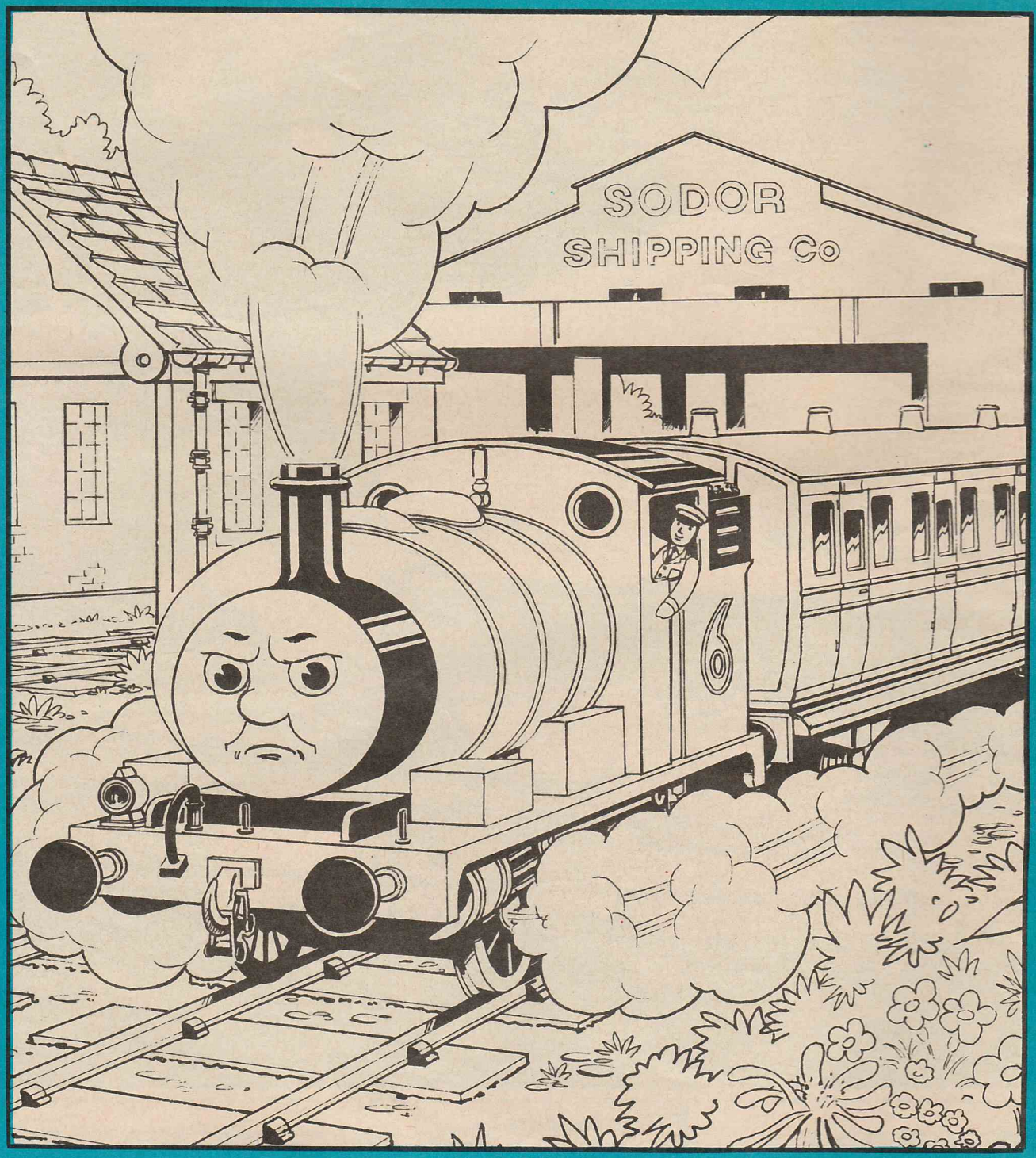
ng about?

Note for parents

This page is designed to form part of a colourful mural for your child's bedroom, playgroup or classroom. After you have finished reading the magazine with your child, remove this part of the centrespread by cutting along the dotted line. There is a 'mural page' in every issue of **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends**. Why not collect each one and watch Thomas and his friends puff all round the room?

Next: Lift off!

COLOURING TIME!



**Percy's looking very grim!
Cheer him up! Colour him in!**

Write to:

THE FAT CONTROLLER

Have you got an amusing story to tell? Do you have a question you would like to ask about Thomas – or any of the other engines? Then why not write to me at the address below! I would be so pleased to hear from you!

STAR LETTER!

Dear Fat Controller
My daddy bought me a scrap book for Thomas and his friends. You are in my book as well.
Love from **Richard**, aged 3.

Your scrap book is a splendid idea, Richard – and I am delighted to hear that I am in it too!
Richard wins a **Thomas the Tank Engine egg cup**, from *Wedgwood*.

DOWN THE MINE!

Thomas makes me laugh, but why did he ignore the signs near the mine?
Love from **David**, aged 8.

Thomas can sometimes be very naughty, and that is when accidents happen, I'm afraid.

MY ROOM!

Dear Fat Controller,
I am mad about trains, especially Thomas! My walls are covered in his pictures and I call my bedroom the signal box!
From **Anthony**, aged 7.

I have a great friend who is a signalman, but I do not think he sleeps in his signal box like you!

NICE MAN!

Dear Fat Controller,
I think you are a very nice man because you are always kind to your engines.
Love from **Martin**, aged 4.

I try to be kind, but I like to think that most of all I am á fair man, Martin.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

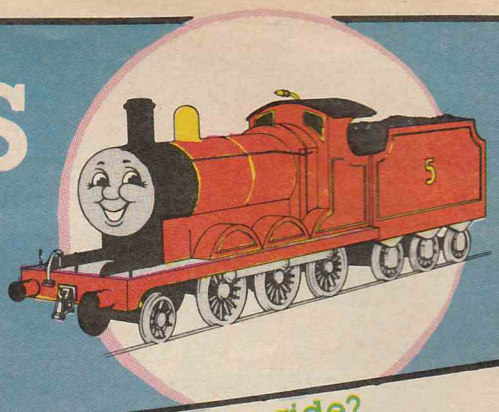
Helen and Melanie Rose, Matthew Ashton, David Warren, Richard Fielder, Matthew Parker, Gary Steele, Paul Jeynes, Lisa Lenton, Barry's Aunty June, Stephen Wilson, Diana and John Barton, Ryan Rhodes, Christopher Wade, Alexander Edwards, Alice Fanning, Andrew Koronowski, Bradley Riddle, Marc Gilkes, Neil Ginn, Christopher Pyke, Steven Taylor, Jonathon Orme, Antony Cawley, Graham Keep, Jason Thomas, James Blackman, John Lucas, Thomas Stancliffe, Kimberley Jackson, Robin Theakston, Ashley Mason, Louise Bignell, Suzanne Leach, Kevin Halliwell, Matthew Cadman, Adam Beaumont, James Burrell, Richard Townley, Jonathan Searle, Alison Gledhill, Graham Collins, Benjamin Wells, Jonathan Lloyd and Ian Holloway!

If you'd like a birthday mention, send details on a postcard, at least **8 weeks** in advance!

Yours,
Sir Topham Hatt
The Fat Controller.

Send your letters to:
The Island of Sodor, c/o Marvel Comics Ltd, 23 Redan Place, London W2 4SA.

JAMES'S JAPES



Thank you for sending us all your funny jokes. Here are a few of James's favourites!

What do cabbages say when they knock at the door?
Lettuce in!
Richard Fish

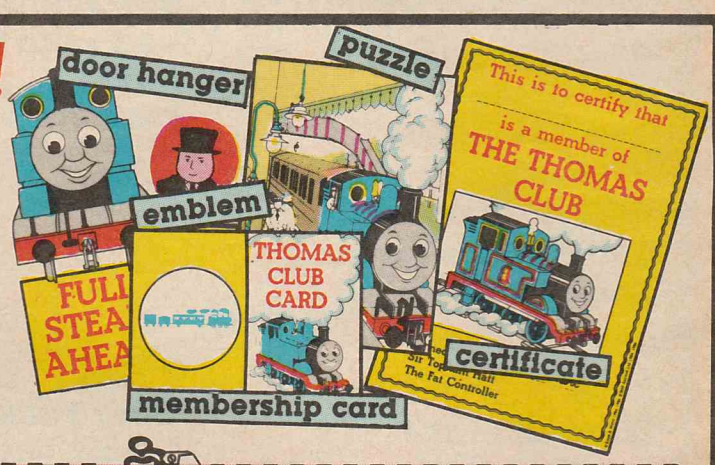
What horse can't you ride?
A clothes horse!
Joseph Gillian

Where do you weigh whales?
At a whale weigh station!
Mark Hethlewaite

What do you call a wobbly, strawberry-flavoured elephant?
A jellyphant!
Billy Drew

What bird is always out of breath?
A puffin!
Anny Myall

News of a great offer!



Take out a subscription to *Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends* and have every issue sent straight to your home every fortnight!

What's more, if you do not already belong to the *Thomas Club*, you will automatically become an immediate member and your exciting Club Pack will be sent to you too!

It costs £9.00 including postage and packing to subscribe to **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends** for one year. Just fill in the form and send it, together with a cheque or postal order for £9.00 to: *Thomas Subscriptions, Marvel Comics, 23 Redan Place, London W2 4SA.*

Please allow 28 days delivery of your first magazine and Club Pack.

I should like to subscribe to **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends** for one year and enclose cheque/postal order for £9.00 to include postage and packing. Please enrol me as an immediate member of the **Thomas Club** if I do not already belong!

Name.....

Age..... **Birthday**.....

Address.....

.....

Signature of parent/guardian.....

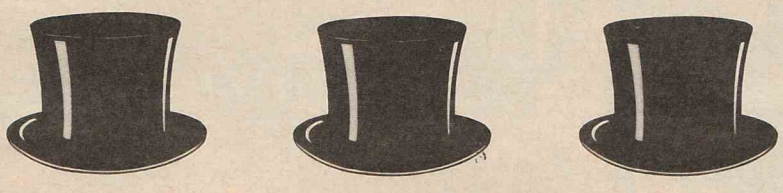
Thomas Subscriptions, Marvel Comics, 23 Redan Place, London W2 4SA.

Make your cheque or postal order payable to *Marvel Comics Ltd.*

PUZZLE TIME!

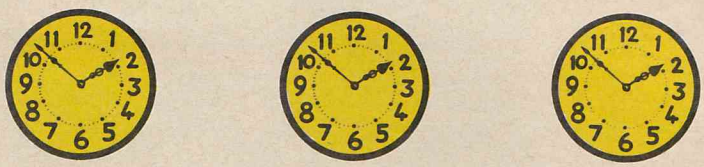
Here is another counting game! Look at the pictures below. How many stars are there? How many flags? Write the numbers on the dotted lines.

_____ stars

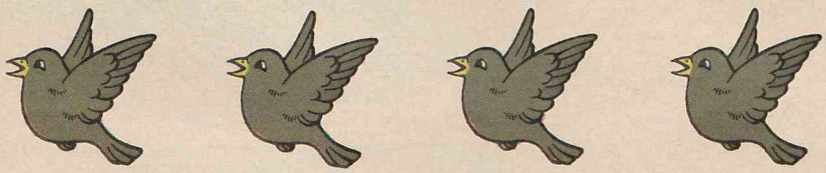


_____ hats

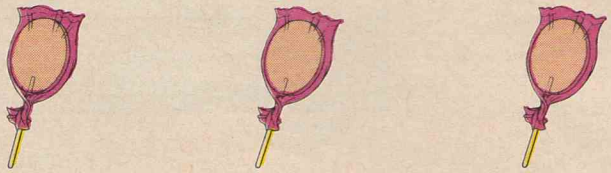
_____ flags



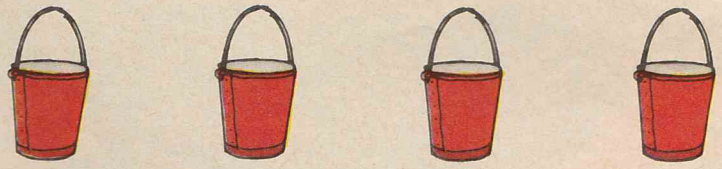
_____ clocks



_____ birds



_____ lollipops



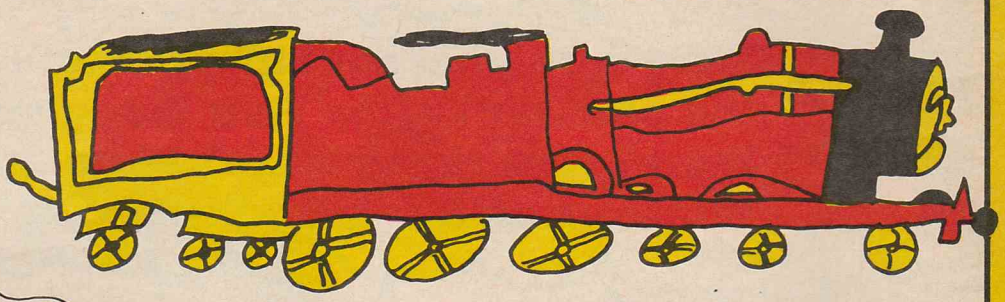
_____ buckets

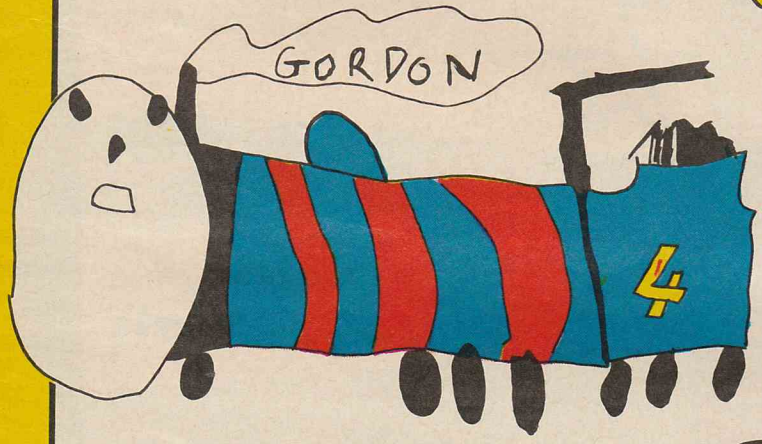
Now add up all the numbers! The answer is below.

Answer 23

YOUR DRAWINGS
for the Fat Controller

This is James by **Andrew**, aged 6 from Nottingham.
Membership no. 3926.

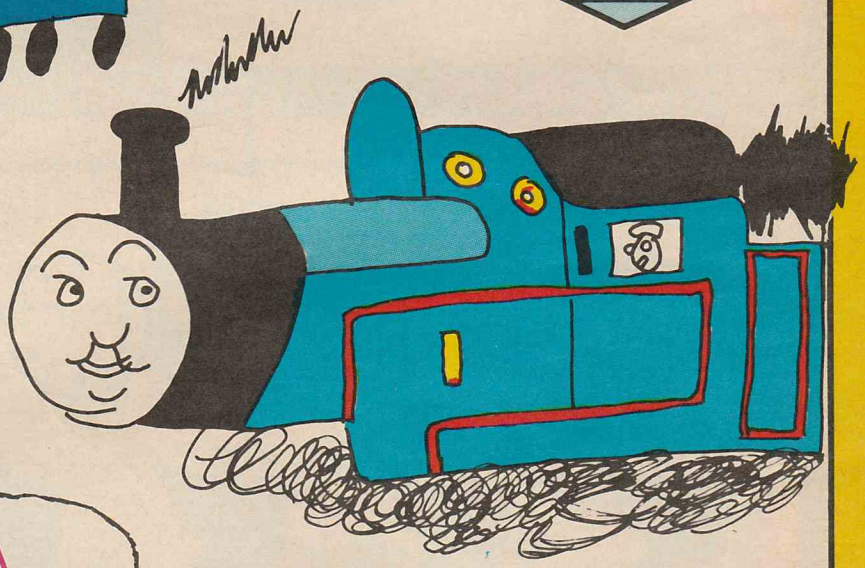


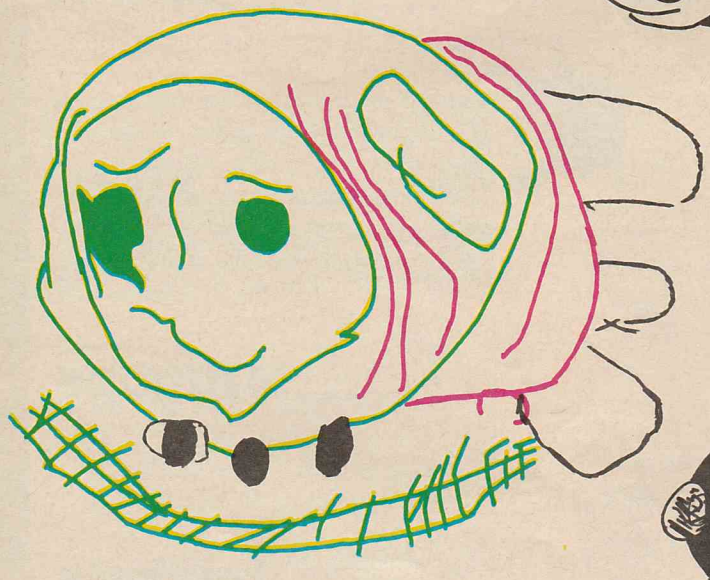


Peep! Peep! Here's Gordon! He's by **William**, aged 4, from Whitwell.
Membership no. 3806

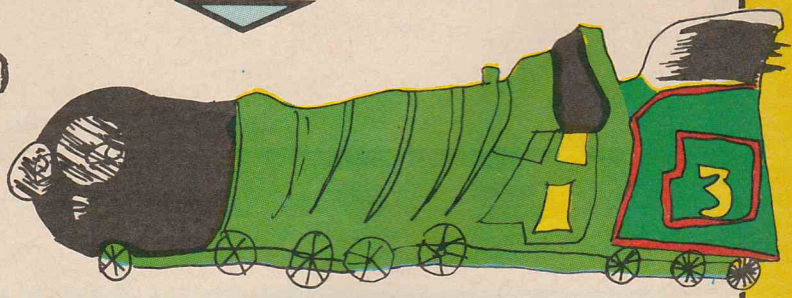
Stuart, aged 4, from Manningtree, has sent us this splendid picture of Thomas!
Membership no. 3341

Here comes Percy! By **Andrew**, aged 3, from Kettering.
Membership no. 16170.



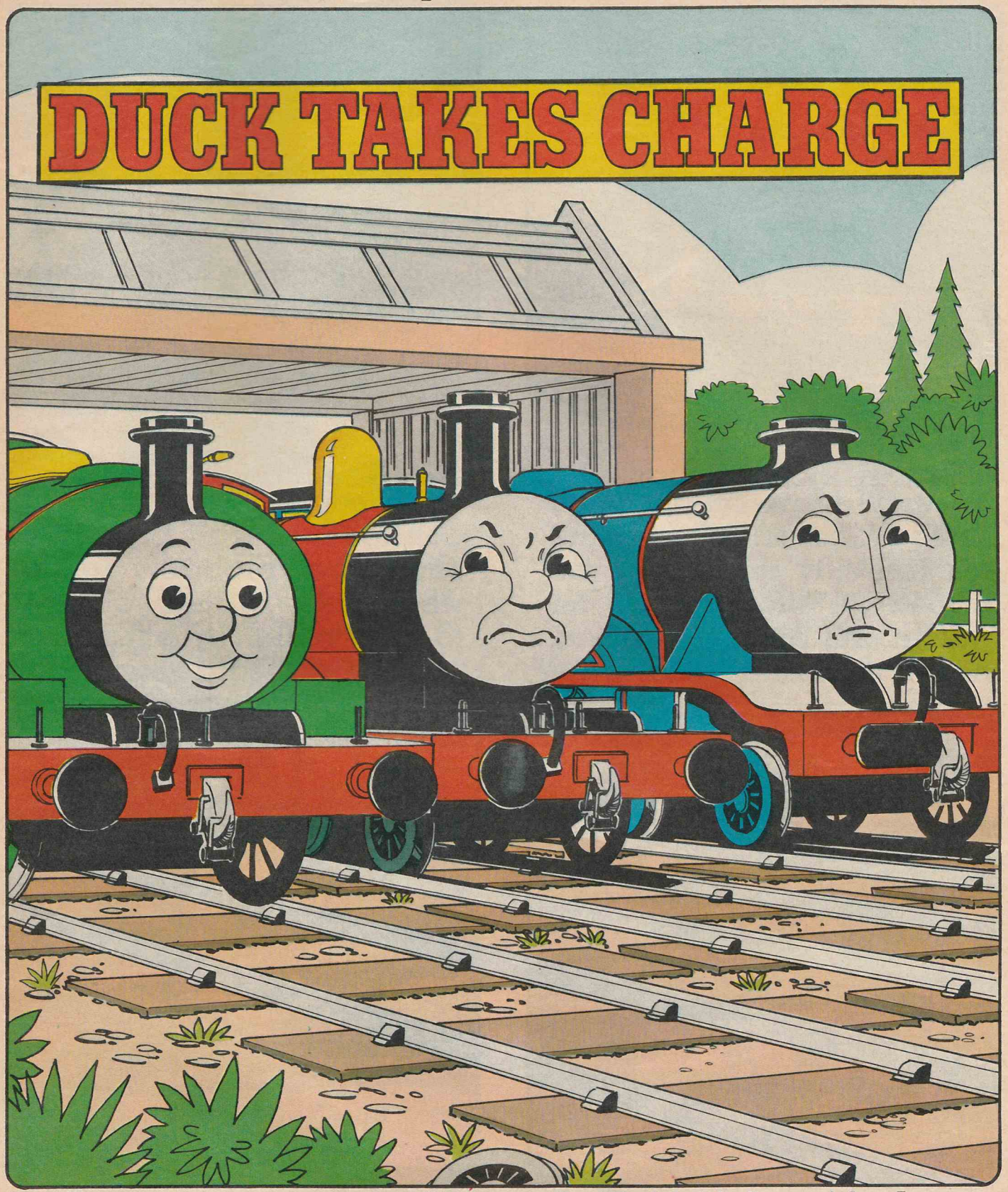


It's Henry! This picture comes from **Andrew**, from Bluntisham.
Membership no. 6032



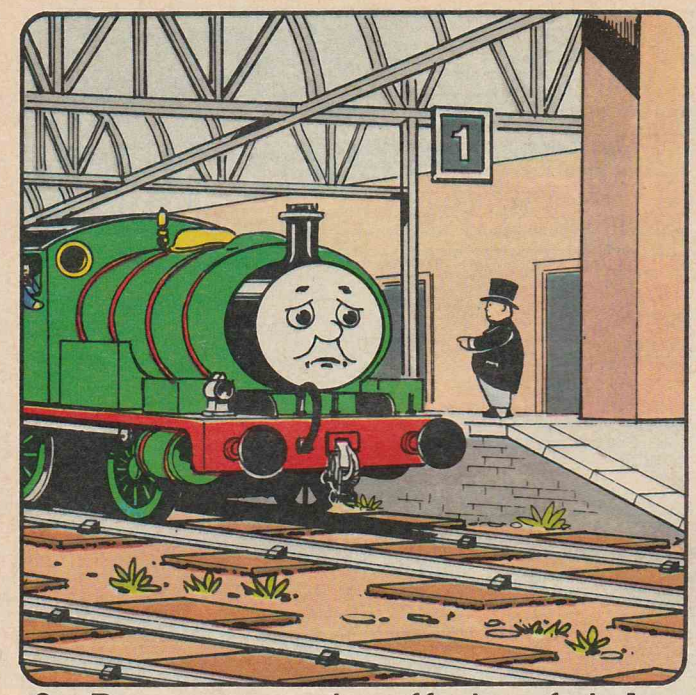
Here are some of the splendid drawings of your favourite engines! Don't they look smart?

A listen and look story!

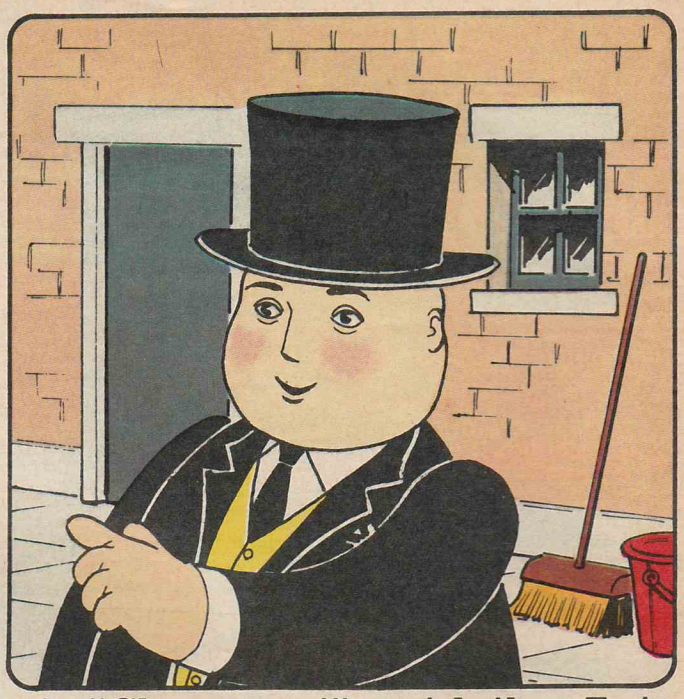


1. "Do you know what?" asked Percy. "The Fat Controller says that the work in the yard is getting too heavy for me. He's getting a bigger engine to help me."

2. "Rubbish," said James. "Any engine could do it. If you worked more and talked less, this yard would be a sweeter, a better and a much happier place."

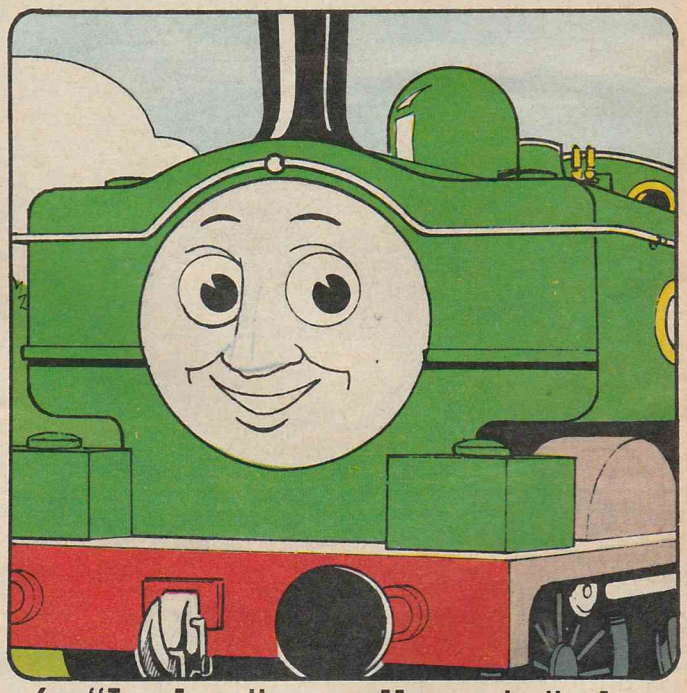


3. Percy went off to fetch some coaches. "They think I'm just silly and order me about. I'll show them!" he puffed. But by the afternoon he felt tired and unhappy.

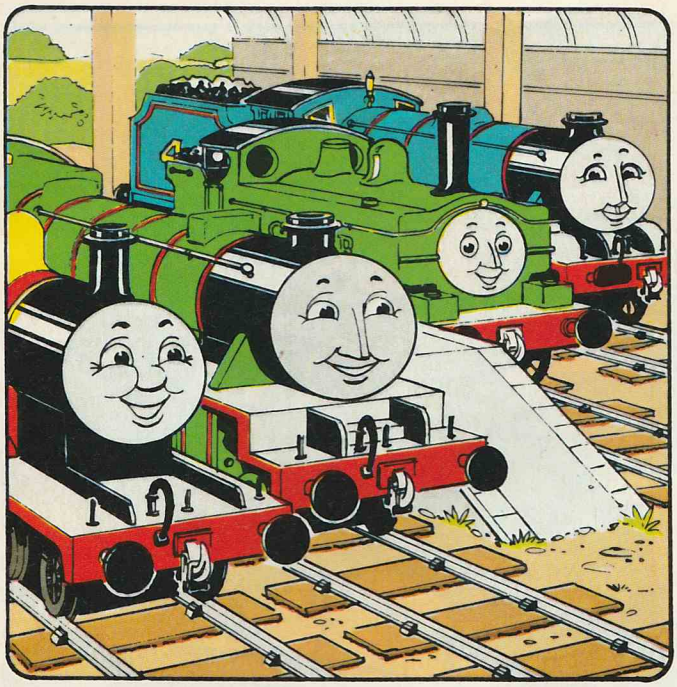


4. "Cheer up!" said the Fat Controller. "The big new engine can probably do the work alone. Would you like to help build my harbour?" "Oh yes, sir!" said Percy.

5. The new engine arrived. "What's your name?" asked the Fat Controller. "Montague, sir. But I'm usually called Duck," he replied. "They say I waddle."

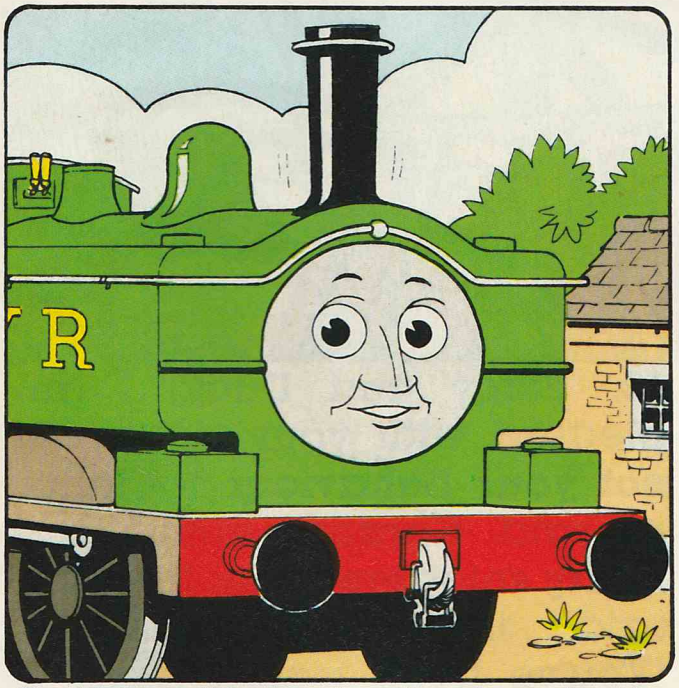


6. "I don't really, sir," he said. "But I like Duck better than Montague." "Duck it shall be," said the Fat Controller. "Here Percy, show Duck around."

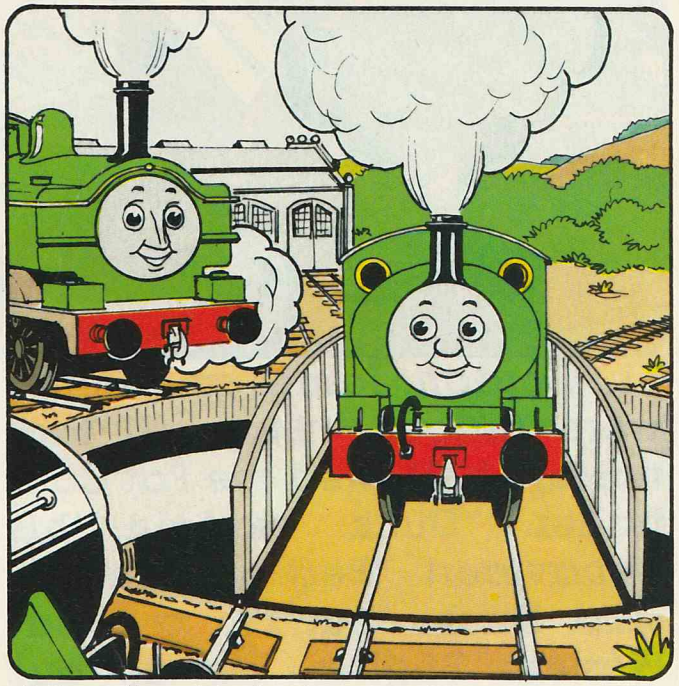


7. The two engines went off together. Soon they were very busy. James, Gordon and Henry watched Duck quietly working. "He seems a simple sort," they whispered.

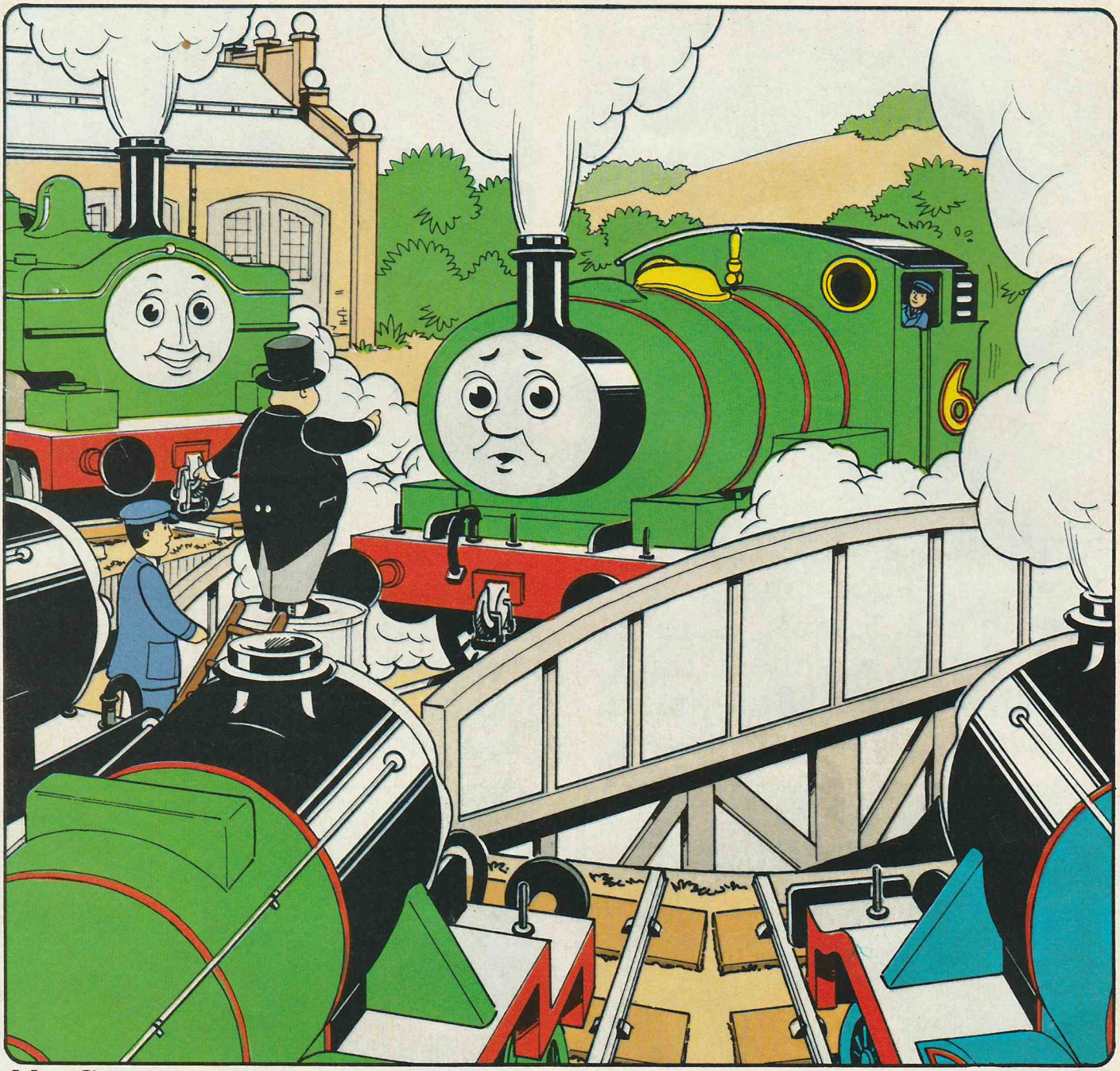
8. "We'll have some fun and order him about." Quaa-aak! Quaa-aak!" they wheezed. Smoke billowed everywhere. Percy was cross but Duck took no notice.



9. "They'll get tired of it soon," said Duck. "Do they tell you to do things?" "Yes, they do!" said Percy. "We'll stop that nonsense," said Duck. "I have a plan . . ."



10. The Fat Controller heard an extraordinary noise and hurried to the yard. Duck and Percy calmly sat on the points outside the shed, not letting the engines in.



11. Gordon, James and Henry were furious. **"Stop all that noise,"** bellowed the Fat Controller. "Duck, explain this behaviour!" "Beg pardon sir," said Duck. "But I'm a Great Western Engine. We do our work without fuss. But would you inform these, er, engines that we take orders only from you." "Silence!" snapped the Fat Controller.

12. "Percy and Duck, I am pleased with your work, but **not** your behaviour tonight," he said. Gordon, James and Henry sniggered. "As for you," said the Fat Controller. "You've been worse! Duck is quite right. This is my railway and I give the orders." When Percy went away, Duck was left alone to manage. He did so easily!

THE END

In our next issue:
Duck looks after Annie and Clarabel!